

Overview of Key Changes to Substance Abuse Regulation

- The Department of Regulation and Licensing (DRL) with the Substance Abuse Counselors Advisory Committee has preserved the experiential or competency-based pathway into the profession, yet has implemented several changes which raises the standards of the profession.
- A minimum of an associate's degree in a behavioral science to qualify for the clinical level counselor, and by requirement, the clinical level of supervision.
- 1 year of practice as a Clinical Substance Abuse Counselor (2000 hours in no less than 1 calendar year) will be required for application as any level of a Clinical Supervisor.
- For the clinical level of certification, the DRL will recognize prior post graduate education to the maximum level established by the ICRC. Therefore, an underlying associate's degree will count for 1000 hours of supervised practice, a bachelor's degree equals 2000 hours of supervised practice and a masters or doctoral degree will equal 4000 hours. This is double the previous allotment under the WCB.
- The DRL has reduced the requisite level of continuing education for counselors from 48 hours in the biennium to 40.

Education

- The advisory committee is proposing changes to Education and Training.
- Previously Education and Training consisted of accredited programs from Technical Colleges and Universities as well as seminars, trainings, and home study courses. Those pursuing their credentials were free to assemble their education from a number of sources.
- The committee is proposing to eliminate this practice and require education only from a comprehensive and cohesive program.

Scope of Practice

The DRL is beginning to implement scope of practice for the professions. Several specifics include:

- Restriction on the practice of substance abuse counselors in training. The SAC-IT credential does not assure competency, therefore a clinical supervisor will be required to authorize the SAC-IT to provide functions when adequately trained.
- The supervision of SAC-IT may not be done by Clinical Supervisors in training - the initial level of certification requires more experienced supervisors.
- Clinical Supervisors will be legally and ethically responsible for the practice of their supervisees, have the authority and responsibility to provide emergency consultation, interrupt/stop unsafe practice and to terminate the supervised relationship if necessary.

Update on Transfer of Substance Abuse Counselor Certification to DRL

Former Title

New Title

New Requirements

Registered Alcohol &
Drug Abuse Counselor
(RADC)

Substance Abuse
Counselor-in-Training

- Requires 100 hours of substance abuse related education (transdisciplinary foundations) with a minimum of 15 hours of ethics (new requirement)
- Requires a minimum of a HS diploma, HSED or GED (new requirement)
- Passage of a state ethics & jurisprudence examination & eliminated the WCB's Elements Exam
- Evidence of an offer of, or current employment, or volunteer work at a substance abuse treatment agency
- The credential is renewable no more than twice (lasts 4 to 6 years depending on the initial date of the application in the biennium)

Certified Alcohol &
Other Drug Abuse
Counselor
(CADC, CADC II &
CADC D)

Substance Abuse
Counselor

- Requires 360 hours of education in substance abuse counseling within a comprehensive program
- 4000 hours of supervised practice
- Passage of the ICRC written counselor examination and state ethics & jurisprudence examination
- Specialty credential under MPSW 1.09 qualifies them for the SAC credential

Certified Alcohol &
Other Drug Abuse
Counselor (CADC III)

Clinical Substance Abuse
Counselor

- Requires a minimum of an associates degree in a behavioral science (in addition to or which includes the 360 hours required for the SAC)
- 7000 hours of supervised practice
- Passage of the ICRC written examination as well as the ICRC Case Presentation method (the Oral Interview)
- Passage of state ethics & jurisprudence exam

Former Title

New Title

New Requirements

Registered Clinical
Supervisor (RCS)

Clinical Supervisor-in-
Training

- A minimum of one year of substance abuse counseling practice (2000 hours of practice in not less than 1 calendar year at the CSAC level)
- A current certification as a clinical substance abuse counselor *or* a Master's level Chap 457 credential holder with the AODA specialty under MPSW 1.09
- Passage of state ethics & jurisprudence exam

Certified Clinical
Supervisor (CCS I &
CCS G)

Intermediate Clinical
Supervisor

- Verification of one year of clinical supervisory experience of counselors certified under this chapter or specialty credential holders under MPSW 1.09
- A current certification as a clinical substance abuse counselor *or* a Master's level Chap 457 credential holder with the AODA specialty under MPSW 1.09
- 30 hours of classroom training in clinical supervision
- Passage of the ICRC written clinical supervisor application
- Passage of state ethics & jurisprudence exam

Certified Clinical
Supervisor (CCS II)

Independent Clinical
Supervisor

- Verification of *two* years of clinical supervisory experience of counselors certified under this chapter or specialty credential holders under MPSW 1.09
- A current certification as a clinical substance abuse counselor *or* a Master's level Chap 457 credential holder with the AODA specialty under MPSW 1.09
- 30 hours of classroom training in clinical supervision
- Passage of the ICRC written clinical supervisor application
- Passage of state ethics & jurisprudence exam

Former Title

New Title

New Requirements

